

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 AID-05

ACDA-05 MC-02 OMB-01 EA-06 SAJ-01 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 OPIC-03 /099 W

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O R 181530Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5157

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONUL LUANDA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3480

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SW, PO, MOZ, AO

SUBJECT: MISCELLANY OF SWEDISH VIEWS ON MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA AND
PORTUGAL

1. I CALLED JULY 17 ON O.K. THYBERG, ACTING MFA DIRECTOR FOR
POLITICAL AFFAIRS, WHO RETURNED A FEW DAYS AGO FROM MOZAMBIQUE
WHERE HE ATTENDED THE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS AS MEMBER
OF GOS DELEGATION HEADED BY HANS GUSTAFSSON, MINISTER OF
COMMUNAL AFFAIRS. THYBERG SAID SWEDISH DELEGATION WAS DEEPLY
SHAKEN BY ENORMITY OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING MOZAMBIQUE.
HE OBSERVED THAT DETERIORATION OF MOZAMBIQUE ECONOMIC STRUCTURE
WAS DUE IN LARGE PART TO THE MASS EMIGRATION OF THE PORTUGUESE
WHITES. DELEGATION VISITED BEIRA, A TOWN OF ABOUT 250,000
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INHABITANTS. AT THE TIME OF THEIR VISIT, THYBERG RECALLED
BEIRA WAS LEFT WITHOUT A SINGLE PHYSICIAN. THYBERG PROFESSED
HIMSELF UNIMPRESSED BY PRESIDENT MACHEL WHO, HE SAID, TRAVELLED
THROUGH COUNTRY SHORTLY BEFORE INDEPENDENCE DAY MAKING FIERY

SPEECHES CALLING FOR THE EVICTION OF ALL WHITES. THYBERG BELIEVES THAT MACHEL'S RELATIVE MODERATION DISPLAYED AT THE INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES WAS LARGELY A RESULT OF ADVICE BY SOME WISER MEN ON HIS TEAM WHO POINTED OUT MOZAMBIQUE'S CRITICAL DEPENDENCE ON AND NEED FOR RETAINING SOME TRAINED PORTUGUESE. ACCORDING TO THYBERG, PORTUGUESE PM GONCALVES MADE LONG, INCOHERENT AND NOSENSICAL SPEECH.

2. DELEGATION ALSO SPENT TWO NIGHTS IN LUANDA, ANGOLA. THYBERG EXPRESSED TO ME HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE CORDIAL RECEPTION ACCORDED TO HIM BY THOMAS KILLORAN, OUR CONSUL GENERAL, WHO VOLUNTEERED MUCH VALUABLE INFORMATION. SWEDES MADE CONTACT WITH THE MPLA LEADERSHIP BUT NOT WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FNLA WHICH, ACCORDING TO THYBERG, "COULD NOT BE FOUND." ACCORDING TO THYBERG, MPLA LEADER AGOSTINHO NETO SAID THAT, DURING THE INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE, MPLA HAD TO GET WEAPONS FROM WHICHEVER SOURCE WAS PREPARED TO SUPPLY THEM. HENCE, MPLA READILY ACCEPTED THE SOVIET OFFER OF ARMS. BUT NETO STATED THAT MPLA WOULD MUCH RATHER OBTAIN ARMS FROM SMALLER NATIONS SUCH AS SWEDEN OR YUGOSLAVIA. PERHAPS ALSO FROM CHINA, HE ADDED. SINCE SWEDEN IS NOT PREPARED TO DELIVER WEAPONS TO THE MPLA, NETO SAID THEY NOW PLAN TO TURN TO YUGOSLAVIA.

3. THYBERG COMMENTED THAT THE FNLA IS "ROTTEN FROM THE TOP DOWN" AND THAT ITS LEADERSHIP CONSISTS OF MEN WHO "WANT TO GET RICH QUICK." FNLA LEADERSHIP, THYBERG WENT ON, IS BASED IN SAIRE AND ITS SUPPORT IS CONFINED TO THE BAKONGO TRIBE THAT STRADDLES THE ZAIRE/ANGOLA FRONTIER REGION. THYBERG SAID THAT DELEGATION DID NOT TRY TO MAKE CONTACT WITH UNITA LEADER SAVIMBE.

4. IN THYBERG'S VIEW, ANGOLA IS HEADED FOR CIVIL WAR. HE BELIEVES THAT MOZAMBIQUE MIGHT BE SPARED SUCH CONFLICT BUT IS LIKELY TO SUFFER FAMINE. IN THYBERG'S OPINION, COMMUNISM IS ONLY SKIN DEEP AS FAR AS LEADERSHIP OF MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA LIBERATION FORCES IS CONCERNED. THE MAIN CONCERN OF THE LEADERSHIP IS WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENTS AND GREATER EQUALITY IN THE SOCIAL ORDER. IT IS NOT WEIGHED
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DOWN BY A VERY HEAVY IDEOLOGICAL BAGGAGE.

5. THYBERG TOLD ME THAT GOS IS WATCHING EVENTS IN PORGUVAL VERY CAREFULLY. THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, IS IN VERY CLOSE TOUCH WITH SOARES, AND ITS DECISIONS ON PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS ARE MADE IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH HIM. THE GOS, HE CONTINUED, HAS DECIDED TO REFRAIN FROM CATEGORICAL STATEMENTS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL. HOWEVER, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY FEELS THE TIME MIGHT COME WHEN SWEDEN WILL HAVE TO SPEAK OUT, ESPECIALLY IF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WERE TO FALL. IN THYBERG'S OPINION, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE CHANGE IN BASIC NATURE OF PORTUGUESE REGIME, I.E., PORTUGAL WAS RUN BY MILITARY EVER SINCE THE DOWNFALL OF THE CAETANO GOVERNMENT, AND IT REMAINS UNDER

MILITARY CONTROL TODAY.

6. THYBERG SAID GOS HAS EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO AFM TO SEND A DELEGATION TO SWEDEN SOMETIME IN SEPTEMBER. ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO EXPRESSED HIMSELF GRATIFIED AT THIS INVITATION AND SAID THAT HE HIMSELF MIGHT JOIN DELEGATION. THYBERG CHARACTERIZED AFM AS IDEOLOGICALLY NAIVE AND MANAGERIALLY INEXPERIENCED. THE TASK, JHE ADDED, IS TO FILL A VACUUM OF AUTHORITY AND MANAGEMENT CREATED BY THE OVERTHROW OF CAETANO. SWEDEN CANNOT DO VERY MUCH TO HELP PORTUGAL, HE SAID. IT HAS BEEN DECIDED, HOWEVER, TO SUPPLY PORTUGAL WITH A FEW EXPERTS EXPERIENCED IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIES. A GROUP OF SUCH EXPERTS IS NOW PROCEEDING TO PORTUGAL. (COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND GROUP WILL DEPART JULY 20. IT CONSISTS OF HANS ANDERSSON, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF HOUSING; LEIF BOBERG, MANAGEMENT CHIEF HFB (HOUSING COOPERATION AGENCY); AND STEN JOHNSSON, ENGINEER, HFB.)

7. COMMENT: AT LUNCHEON TODAY, ANDERS THUNBORG, MFA UNDER SECRETARY OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, WHO UPON RECOUNTING HIS WASHINGTON EXPERIENCES, TOLD ME THAT SOARES HAD PHONED HIM THIS MORNING TO SAY THAT HE STILL HOPED FOR AN ACCOMMODATION WITH THE AFM, THE CONTINUATION OF THE CONSTITUTENT ASSEMBLY AND FREE TRADE UNION ELECTIONS. SOARES SAID THAT THE AFM MEETING, SCHEDULED FOR THIS AFTERNOON, MIGHT MARK DECISIVE TURN IN PORTUGUESE SITUATION, AND THAT HE WOULD PHONE BACK TO KEEP SWEDES INFORMED. THUNBORG ASSURED ME THAT HE WOULD CALL ME AS SOON AS HE HAD RECEIVED WORD FROM SOARES. WHEN HE DOES I
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WILL REPORT. THYBERG ADDED THAT SWEDISH POSITION ON PORTUGAL CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH NORWAY.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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